

***Sideridis albicolon* (Hb.) (Lep.: Noctuidae) at Dartford, Kent**

A male of this species was attracted to my garden m.v. light on 21 May 1999. Chalmers-Hunt (*Butterflies and Moths of Kent*, sup. in *Ent. Rec.* 76) quotes only one previous record for Vice-County 16 (West Kent), a specimen at light at Lee, 19 June 1954, and no additional records are listed in Plant (1993. *Larger Moths of the London Area*).

Unless others are observed, this Dartford specimen, the identity of which was kindly confirmed by Bernard Skinner, must be regarded as a vagrant, not necessarily from the Kent coast or Breckland, but probably more likely from the south-west. Collins (*Larger Moths of Surrey*, 1997) makes some interesting comments concerning *S. albicolon* in that county. For the 1976 to 1996 period he states that the species was a scarce resident of the heathland of south-west Surrey, but in the 1950s occurred more commonly in the north-west. L. and K. Evans (*A Survey of the Macrolepidoptera of Croydon and N.E. Surrey*, 1973) mention that several specimens were observed at light at Putney in 1951. Thus, it appears that a temporary extension of range occurred in the 1950s, and the Lee specimen was probably associated with this.—B.K.WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.

***Tachystola acroxantha* (Meyrick) (Lep.: Oecophoridae) in Somerset**

We have been running a Heath trap in our garden at Weston-super-Mare in North Somerset (vice-county 6). Between 3 July, our first night of operation, and 31 July 1999, we caught 46 specimens of the oecophorid moth *Tachystola acroxantha*. This seems a remarkable total for a moth of which there are very few Somerset records to date and is clearly worth recording.

The species is one which is spreading in Britain from its Cornwall base and it has evidently spread east as far as Hampshire, whilst there is an isolated and currently unexplained record from the Manchester area too (Langmaid, pers. comm.). In Somerset it has been recorded at Berrow by B.E. Slade, some eleven miles from Weston, between 1993 and 1999. The numbers taken in our garden suggest that it is now established in the area.

Also of interest was the capture of two examples of the Feathered Ranunculus *Polymixis lichenea* (Hb.) on the same night, 9-10 July 1999, some two months in advance of the normal flight period here.—ANDREW SLADE & WENDY FARRAR, 3 Norfolk Road, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset BS23 3BG.